

REMARKS

By way of this Amendment, new claims 30-33 have been added and claims 18, 20, 25-29 have been deleted, therefore claims 14-17, 19, 21-24 and 30-33 are all the claims pending in the application.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 14-29 are all the claims pending in the present Application.

Claims 14-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 14-17, 19, 21-24 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang, "Data Resource Selection in Distributed Visual Information Systems", I.E.E.E. Knowledge and Data Engineering, Volume 10, pages: 926-946, November 1998.

Claims 18, 20 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Formal Matters

The Examiner is requested to consider the IDS filed on December 11, 2006 and provide the Applicants with a signed and initialed copy of the corresponding PTO/SB/08(a).

Section 112 rejections

The Applicants amend the independent claims to remove the phrase found objectionable by the Examiner.

Allowable claims

In the Office Action dated January 11, 2006, claims 18, 20 and 25 have been found allowable but for their dependency on rejected base claims. These claims were rejected solely based on the section 112 grounds discussed above in the Office Action dated June 21, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated November 16, 2006. As discussed above, the deletion of the allegedly offending phrase should place claims 18, 20 and 25 back in an allowable condition.

In the present Amendment, the base claims 1, 19 and 21 have been amended to include limitations from claims 18, 20 and 25, respectively.

Therefore claims 14-17, 19 and 21-24 are presently allowable.

New claims

New claims 30-33 have been presented for examination.

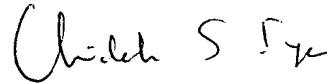
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (c)
U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/822,853

Attorney Docket No.: Q59547

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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